NAAEE Roundtable

Friday Oct 18, 2:15-2:55 pm

Lexington Convention Center, Thoroughbred 1

Materials: [MGS Expansion Project Fact Sheet](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WYNBm-bFkTuX7Sst28N8aO6FYCiePsw16Yht6Kzr3_Q) and List of Key Strategies Bullet Points

Program Description that participants will have:

“Pathways to Advance Green Schools”

*Join the discussion with Missouri Green Schools leadership about how to increase participation in US Dept of Ed’s Green Ribbon Schools through statewide feeder programs. We will discuss challenges and opportunities that exist to attract and support schools as they progress along the green spectrum, especially underrepresented rural and urban core schools.*

**Presentation Points**

Common goal: Increase participation in ED-GRS through engaging schools in regional and state-level green schools programs

*Key Strategies for the Goal:*

1. Consistent use of a common definition of green schools by schools and partner
   1. ED-GRS provides this with the 3 pillars
   2. Green schools work *across* all 3 pillars (reducing environmental impacts, improving health and wellness, integrating sustainability education)
2. Raise awareness about the holistic nature of the 3 pillars, and that entry points can be varied and should be tailored to each school’s unique situation
   1. Share sub-categories and examples of work
   2. While one school might benefit most from starting with an energy audit (Pillar 1 and 3), another school might need to do address trauma in their community and start with activities that promote healing and mental health (Pillar 2).
      1. We must share that health is a key component
      2. Common misconception is that if a school is old and in bad disrepair, that they can’t achieve GRS status
         1. ED-GRS is accessible no matter a school’s starting point; it is about innovation and documenting progress not a specific threshold of efficiency or cost-savings
3. Assessment and Tracking Tool
   1. *You can’t manage what you don’t measure.*
      1. Baseline assessment a must.
      2. Tool should illuminate options for a path forward: the metrics options can provide ideas for schools about next steps, what to measure, available tracking programs.
      3. START Tool a great national resource; we are looking to collaborate with GSA to customize it for our state.
4. All of the above is strengthened by partnerships
   1. Really, a necessity--GRS so broad, so many schools might participate, so many starting points, and it’s so interconnected
   2. Partnering is both a challenge and an opportunity
      1. Challenge--time to attend a wide variety of networking events and synthesizing how all the potential partners interconnect and what resources they each bring to the table
      2. Opportunity: diverse networks are strong and resilient, and they unearth new ideas and opportunities

*Our Story:*

1. We have a Missouri pathway to ED-GRS with GSQ and MGS
2. Describe where we are with the bullet points above
3. Attendees can read details about our plan and follow up if they have questions

*But we want to discuss how the folks in attendance can find their unique path. Discussion questions:*

1. Poll of the group--who has a green schools program at their state or who is actively developing one?
2. 2. Of people who have an active green schools program,
   1. Are there any key strategies we mentioned that seem particularly salient to your journey?
   2. Any strategies you’d add?
3. Do any of you have insight into working with high needs school?
   1. We are just about to embark on this, and can share the HSHC model of support as needed (but details about this are on the fact sheet)